

Trunella Williams (Trudy)
Director of Programming
Team Wellness Center
Family Advisory Board Member
6309 Mack Ave.
Detroit, MI 48207

12/2/2020

Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my testimony of being a supportive family member of a person who is currently incarcerated within the Michigan Department of Corrections. My journey into this system began October 2013 and has remained a constant journey of my daily existence. It is a true statement that says the family of the person incarcerated does every bit of the person's incarceration sentence. The only difference, however, is that they we are doing the sentence on the outside. I am extremely proud to be a member of the Family Advisory Board for the Michigan Department of Corrections because I truly feel that we (the family) have a voice. What I have learned since beginning this journey is that the Detroit area currently has over 133,000 Detroit residents who are Justice Involved. Of the 133,000 residents, 3,000 are currently on Parole and 75% of them are unemployed, 8400 are currently on Probation and 45% of them are currently unemployed. This large number also includes the men and women who are currently incarcerated within the Michigan department of Corrections. These numbers mean that children are without one or both parents, grandparents who are the parents of those incarcerated are trying to provide for their grandchildren as well as their children. Spouses or significant others are trying support their loved ones while they are away and maintain their daily lives. The Family Advisory Board makes these situations bearable and allows there to be a light in the midst of so much darkness. Without the existence of the Family Advisory Board, families will come into this system not knowing what to do or who they can they turn to for answers to critical questions, while feeling hopeless and alone. I believe that EVERY person can recover and overcome any situation, including situations involving criminal activity. There are key ingredients that every person needs to have in order to be successful. Those key ingredients are Health, Home, Community and Purpose this is a definition of RECOVERY. Family Support is a crucial component of successful reentry and transition home. This support begins from the beginning of the incarceration and through the transition home and following release. In closing, please consider the importance of supporting Michigan Department of Correction Family Reunification Policy 195 Family Advisory Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trunella Williams

313-506-0001